

The Public Schools.

The address of the State Executive Committee of the Conservative party which was published this morning is a document that ought to rally to the support of the public schools in Virginia. Its reasoning is simply unanswerable. It shows that if the agitators succeed in their efforts, the public school system will be one of the first institutions in the State to feel the blighting effects of their wicked schemes. The State Executive Committee repeats and endorses the statements of the State Central Committee as to the amount of the public debt and the revenues of the Commonwealth, and in this connection calls public attention to the fact that those statements are not only verified but by the writers of the address of the State Central Committee, but by the officers of the Commonwealth, whilst the statements offered to the public on the other side are put out by nobody who will attach his name to them, or else are the mere utterances of demagogues engaged in an unwholesome work. This fact is worthy of particular attention. The people ought to pay no attention to statements so important a subject which do not come from some known source.

There is one statement which we would like to add to this address—and that is, that the Virginia Military Institute, the University of Virginia, and the Agricultural and Mechanical College, are all as deeply concerned in the proper settlement of the debt question as are the public schools. It will never be possible to get an appropriation for those institutions until the public schools are provided for. The friends of those splendid State foundations will make an inexcusable blunder if they fail to do all that they can to make the McCulloch settlement a final one.

We trust that everybody will read this address; but we specially commend it to the attention of all the friends of the public-school system.

General Mahone's Estimates.

In his letter of July 4th, 1877, to M. M. MARTIN, Esq., of Charlotte county, General MAHON said:

"The truth is that the actual debt, including the accumulations of interest, now aggregates over \$41,000,000, and that the increase of the debt has been at the average rate of \$800,000 per annum since the funding bill took effect. The truth is that, according to the Auditor's estimate of total revenues as \$2,700,000, when the average revenue for the past six years has been only \$2,358,000, and accepting his estimates of \$1,300,000 for expenses of the government, and taking the appropriation for the schools at \$448,000 (the Auditor's figures), there will be left \$1,270,000 to meet an interest account of \$2,169,000. If the interest due on account of the sinking fund be discarded the deficit will still amount to \$500,000."

Now, if General MAHON was not mistaken in 1877, he is vastly mistaken now, or else trying to deceive the people.

From his letter as quoted above, it appears that the State's debt was over \$41,000,000 two years ago, and increasing at the rate of \$800,000 a year. Of course, therefore, it was over \$42,000,000 when the McCulloch bill was begun to be enforced, and as there will be less than \$33,000,000 of debt under that bill, according to every body's admission, it follows that the State saved over nine millions of dollars of the debt which General MAHON said she owed and would owe in two years, and these ten millions are no part of the saving which has been claimed by the friends of the McCulloch settlement.

Perhaps, however, the General will say that he was in error. His estimates now are of the same kind. They are made to support a certain theory, and "won't do to it."

Look again at his estimate of interest—\$2,169,000! Under the McCulloch settlement the annual interest will be \$983,000. Here, according to General MAHON, is another yearly saving of over a million of dollars! What advocate of the McCulloch settlement can make a better argument in its favor?

The Press.

It must be entertaining to the agitators to read what the *Kockbridge Enterprise*, the *Salem Register*, the *Page Courier*, and a few other papers have to say on the public-debt question. These are the stand-bys of the deluded Mozarts, and have to do duty on all occasions.

In contrast with the poverty of the agitators, behold the riches of the honest party as displayed in yesterday's *Dispatch*, whose fourth page was full of fine articles, copied from the following papers—namely, the *Wyevalle Enterprise*, the *Mecklenburg Democrat*, the *West Point Star*, the *Halifax Record*, the *Winchester Times*, the *Montgomery Messenger*, the *Hillsville Virginian*, the *Norfolk Ledger*, the *Bedford Star*, the *Shenandoah Valley*, the *Charlottesville Jeffersonian*, the *Peabody Virginian*, the *Norfolk News*, the *Warrenton Index*, the *Fredericksburg Star*, the *Charlottesville Chronicle*, the *Blue-Ridge Echo*, and the *Lynchburg News*. All these papers, we say, were quoted in one issue of the *Dispatch*.

But that is not a full list of the debt-paying journals. Indeed, it falls far short of it. To be sure, in addition to those quoted in yesterday's *Dispatch*, more conservative papers sustaining the McCulloch settlement than the agitators can count upon in the whole State of Virginia to oppose that settlement.

After the McCulloch settlement is completed, the interest upon the entire public debt will be only \$983,000. Don't forget that. If that settlement could be defeated, the State of Virginia would be put back under the funding act of 1871 and would still have \$1,200,000 of coupons coming in annually, and \$800,000 additional of interest accumulating annually upon the peeler bonds. Even this year ending October 1st the State will probably have to take up \$1,400,000 of coupons, whereas if she had had the benefit of the McCulloch settlement she would have had to pay but \$983,000 on her whole debt.

West Virginia's share of Virginia's debt was charged by the *Reckdusters* to Virginia, and they declared that not only did Virginia owe that fifteen millions of debt, and the interest upon it for the last seven years, but that the Supreme Court of Appeals had so decided. Well, Virginia will get rid of all of those millions of debt under the McCulloch settlement. What else would you have? Send no man to the Legislature, Virginians, who will shoulder those millions of debt again by tripping up the McCulloch settlement.

Dr. CURRY and THE LEGISLATURE.—We are authorized to say that Dr. Curry will not under any circumstances be a candidate for either the House or the Senate of the next General Assembly.

A. M. and O. and Sinking Fund.

General Mahone occupied most of his time in defending his cause as president of the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio railroad, and endeavored to explain what became of the \$4,000,000 obtained from the State by the consolidation scheme, but plainly evaded a direct answer, and in closing alluded only in a few generalities to the debt question.—*Wyevalle Enterprise* on Tazewell debate.

General MAHON is indeed more interested in defending "his cause as president of the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio railroad" than anybody else, and he must begin to find, as difficult as that defence is, it is not much more so than his course on the State-debt question, and he may not lose anything by changing from one subject to the other. The General was out amongst the Tazewell people, who hopes he had excited with regard to the Cumberland Gap railroad as a means of securing his election as consolidated president of the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio railroad with a salary of \$25,000 per annum. He remembered that he had blighted those same hopes by getting released by the Legislature from his obligation to build that road, and also by getting released from the appropriation of \$4,000,000 to that purpose. The aforesaid people, getting a sight of the cocked hat, were no doubt "anxious to know, you know," all about this, and failed not to cross-question the railroad king; and he undertook to respond, but from the account given by the *Enterprise* we can well understand how he failed to explain the affair to the disappointed and bamboozled people of Tazewell.

Yes, the man who was paid the monstrous salary of \$25,000 per annum for running the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio into the hands of the receivers, were he to live until the centennial of consolidation, and devote the whole time until then to a defence of his presidency, would not be able to get through the ring of that defence.

He never will explain the "sinking" of the \$77,220 that were by him paid to the Richmond *Whig*—nor the \$17,000 that were devoted to "the advancement of consolidation"—[How? Did members of the Legislature require money to influence their opinions?—nor the \$15,000 that were paid on hotel-bills for soups and liquors to his partisans. These amounts went to the sinking fund that was exhausted in the president's strategies. They never have been and never will be explained. As all the agitation now pending is intended for the personal gratification of General MAHON, he might reasonably make a defence of his unexplained official acts a part of his defence in the campaign; but that he can succeed in such a defence is no more probable than that he could succeed in a scheme for connecting Cape Horn with the Cape of Good Hope by railway.

By the way, there seems to be some fault-finding about General MAHON's relation to sinking funds. As late as last winter he had a wild scheme for his restoration to the presidency of the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio railroad by purchasing that road for the State with the Sinking Fund, although the Legislature had no more right to appropriate that fund to that purpose than we had. The visions of regained power over four hundred miles of railway, with all the patronage and power it conferred, floated through his enlaced train. He knew well what it was. He had once nearly debauched the whole State of Virginia with it, and he was most anxious to get it back. But that man of intellect and forecast, Senator PINCKNEY, speedily pricked the bubble, and it burst. So ended the last exploit with the sinking fund. General MAHON indeed has a right to devote himself to the defence of his course on the public debt, or to the defence of his wayward career as railroad president with \$25,000 a year. It will be a difficult question to decide which would better undertake. We think he would succeed in one about as well as in the other.

SENATOR GRIMSLEY.—This worthy and able senator is before his constituents as a candidate for the nomination for reelection. Mr. GRIMSLEY is a gentleman and patriot. Without having allied himself at any time with any party of persons at all disaffected towards the Commonwealth or indifferent to her public honor, he has adhered to the middle track, avoiding extremes and always seeking the most practicable and feasible way to protect the public interests and promote the peace and prosperity of the State. He has always displayed so earnest a purpose to do good to the people, and so much judgment as to the best way to do that, that if he should be left at home next fall we could not but deplore the failure to elect him. The Conservatives and the good people of Culpeper could not do better than elect him. That honored old county would do well towards maintaining its good name by continuing its confidence in this good and faithful servant.

ANOTHER RESUMPTION.—It is folly to talk of any further resumption of the public debt. It was hard enough for Governor HOLLIDAY to induce the State's creditors to submit to the McCulloch proposition. It would be an insult to them to offer a more acceptable proposition. Never was a State more liberally treated. Two-thirds of her bondholders have for the last seven years collected from the State annually more than all of them will collect annually when the McCulloch settlement is completed.

See to it that your delegates are in favor of the perfection of that settlement.

WHEN THE ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE.

When we said yesterday that the election would take place on the second Tuesday in November, we were of course thinking of the fact that the Ohio elections take place on the second Tuesday in October. A friend reminds us that the Virginia elections will be held on the 4th of November—the first Tuesday—or, as the Constitution has it, the Tuesday after the first Monday. So that there will be but eleven weeks between now and the election. Conservatives of Virginia, see to it that the Agitators are "settled" on the 4th of November.

We called attention in yesterday's *Dispatch* to the following paragraph, from the *Charlottesville Chronicle*, which places Parson MASSEY in an unenviable light:

We do not know what Mr. Massey said at the Warm Springs, but we do know that he holds the Federal Government liable for and responsible to the creditors for so much of the debt as is held by non-residents, and that such bondholders ought to demand payment. Now, suppose they should do so, and the Federal Government should kindly consent to lift that much of Virginia's debt from her shoulders, how would it be done? Simply by sending tax-gatherers all over the State to scourge the people. The Virginia debt is being transferred by her creditors to Uncle Sam it will be settled on business principles, and not according to the views of politicians. The paragraph, however, was not published, and so the editorial reference was not understood.

PETERSBURG.

DINWIDDIE COUNTY COURT—HABEAS CORPUS AWARDED.—THE BEST CANDIDATE—A FEW FROM MEMBERS—THE POLITICAL SITUATION—CANDIDATES FOR THE SENATE—SUDDEN DEATH. [Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.] AUGUST 19, 1879.

By reason of the disability of Judge R. H. Jones, Jr., the court was held by Judge W. L. Clifton, of Chesterfield, held the August term of the County Court of Dinwiddie, which began yesterday and terminated to-day. Very little else of business occupied the attention of the court, and there was a very slim attendance of people yesterday on account of the stormy weather, and in the absence of witnesses, nearly all of the criminal cases were continued until the November term.

The case of John H. Lewis, charged with shooting Lewis F. Chas. inhabitant, is now on for a hearing. Judge Jones has awarded a writ of *habeas corpus*, returnable before him in this city on Friday next, when the question of bail will be decided. Chapell's condition, meanwhile, continues favorable. While he is entirely disabled, his words are not considered as dangerous.

Hon. John Randolph Tucker will address the people of Petersburg in favor of the McCulloch compromise and the settlement of the public debt some day early in September, and it is expected that other able speakers will follow him in quick succession.

The secretary of the St. Andrew's Society of this city received this morning an urgent appeal from Memphis for aid for the yellow-fever sufferers among the kindred societies here. If I mistake not the society here was organized about ten years ago, but the members—among whom are some of our wealthiest and most liberal-hearted citizens—will doubtless make a generous response.

There is no change to note as yet in the political situation in this city and district. The debt question is the all-absorbing theme of interest and discussion. The City Executive Committee has not yet agreed upon a plan for a primary for the election of delegates to the conventions to nominate candidates for senator and members of the House of Delegates, and until that is done matters will remain comparatively quiet. Only one gentleman has directly announced himself for the Senate, though it is understood there are a number of aspirants whose friends are quietly working for their behalf.

Mr. G. C. Nash, an aged and highly esteemed citizen of Dinwiddie county, died suddenly yesterday from the effects of a severe attack of paralysis. Mr. Nash was in the city only a few days ago, arranging with his commission merchant for the sale of his crop of tobacco. RICHARD ADAMS.

CHARLOTTESVILLE.

SUNDAY SERVICES—EXCERPTS—DEATH OF AN ESTIMABLE LADY—POLITICS. [Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.] AUGUST 18, 1879.

Dr. J. L. M. Williams, of Baltimore, preached a most admirable sermon in the Baptist church yesterday. Dr. Williams is one of the most forcible and able preachers of the gospel in this country, and his words are ever heard, and are not that is done matters will remain comparatively quiet. Only one gentleman has directly announced himself for the Senate, though it is understood there are a number of aspirants whose friends are quietly working for their behalf.

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King and Queen Conservative Convention.

At a meeting of the Conservative delegates of King and Queen at the Courthouse on the 14th instant, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the House of Delegates, on motion Mr. N. B. Sims was chosen chairman, and J. G. Cannon secretary.

Mr. Cannon moved that the candidates whose names may be brought before the Convention be called on for their views on the McCulloch bill, the public-school question, and the question of the proposed increase of taxation over the present rates for State purposes. Carried.

Mr. N. Walker moved that the delegates to the Convention pledge themselves to support its nominee. Carried.

Mr. Walker also offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:

1. Resolved, That we do especially commend our course on the vexed question of the settlement of the State debt, and the unvarying support he has given to the bill passed by the recent session of our Legislature known as the McCulloch bill.

2. Resolved, That we call upon the citizens in mass assembly of our courthouse to-day to meet and give an expression to their approval of these resolutions.

3. Resolved, That the secretary of this meeting be directed to forward to Dr. Cox a copy of these resolutions.

Colonel Montague, in order, Colonel E. Montague nominated Dr. Cox, and spoke authoritatively for him on these questions, the Doctor being absent.

Dr. John Bagby nominated Captain William Haynes, and reiterated the views entertained by him on the questions at issue. A protracted discussion on the merits and availability of the two candidates, Dr. Cox's name was dropped and Captain J. W. Smith placed in nomination by Colonel Montague.

A vote was next taken, with the following result: Haynes, 5; Smith, 4.

When Colonel Montague moved that the nomination of Captain Haynes be made unanimous. Carried.

Colonel Montague was designated to inform Captain Haynes of his nomination and to invite the citizens to attend a ratification meeting.

The *West Point Star*, *Tidewater Index*, and *Dispatch* were requested to publish the proceedings.

Then the Convention adjourned.

N. B. SIMS, Chairman.

J. G. Cannon, Secretary.

It turns out, the probability is that during that period he had not gone outside his own farm. Yesterday the explosion of a pistol was heard near his residence. No one was hurt, the premises except his aged father and a colored man, who occupied a cabin in the yard. The latter, on hearing the noise, rushed to his door, and saw Stevens sitting on the stile, with his hand pressing his heart. Before he could reach him he had fallen and expired. His clothing was dry, and nothing was found upon his person except a pocket-knife and a few apples. He had probably been sleeping every night in his own barn. For the old father, who for many years has been a highly esteemed citizen, and who evidently is sustained in his affliction by nothing but religion, the deepest sympathy is everywhere expressed. The children of the unfortunate couple are being cared for by the wife's relatives. And thus closes what, in the memory of the oldest inhabitant, is the most tragic that ever had its scene in this county. Both murders occurred on Sunday, and near the same hour and place.

Yours,

B.

MADISON COUNTY.

MADISON COURTHOUSE, August 16, 1879. *Richmond Dispatch*.—This county is now much excited about a railroad coming into the county-seat, and I write to give you some account of a meeting I had the pleasure of attending to-day. The Fredericksburg and Piedmont Railroad Company promise them an extension from Grants Courthouse to this place, inside of twelve months if the county will subscribe \$50,000 towards the construction. The question then before the people is, shall they vote the subscription or not? Meetings are being held in all parts of the county in anticipation of the vote. At the meeting I attended to-day considerable preparations were made for a dinner and a bountiful supply of eatables furnished by those most interested in favor of the road. Governor Kemper, who is much interested in the road, presided strongly a railroad man, led the procession, and the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad turns a deaf ear to their entreaties, and as they must have a railroad, they must take it where they can get it. They say they have 200,000 bushels of grain each year for market, and it would all go to Richmond if they could get railroad facilities, and they cannot but have to send it to Fredericksburg, and thence on by water or rail, if need be, to the world. They also propose extending this road from here both to Greene and Appamattock, thus cutting off two-thirds of the county from the market, and the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad turns a deaf ear to their entreaties, and as they must have a railroad, they must take it where they can get it. 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